

Message Text

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10

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02

RSR-01 /247 W

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R 240756Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WSHDC 1365

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

RUESRS AMEMBASSY CARACAS 115

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALLAM

RUESZC AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 437

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJECT: CONTACT GROUP MEETING AFTERNOON AUGUST 21

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1. SUMMARY: CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERED ORGANIZATIONAL

QUESTIONS FOR LOW CONFERENCE AND GENERALLY AGREED IT WOULD BE BEST MAINTAIN SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.

WAS ALSO AGREED THERE WOULD BE A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, SMALL DRAFTING COMMITTEE WITHOUT NEGOTIATING POWER, AND A SPECIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH ISSUES SUCH AS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT WHICH CUT ACROSS LINES OF ALL COMMITTEES. ON QUESTION OF VOTING, EVERYONE AGREED ATTEMPT MAINTAIN CONSENSUS PROCEDURES AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BUT SOVIETS, FRANCE AND JAPAN INDICATED THAT ONLY CONSENSUS PROCEDURES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE RULES. END SUMMARY.

2. SPAIN SUPPORTED PRESERVING SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH A POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF SUBCOMMITTEE II INTO TWO OR THREE SUB-UNITS. SPANISH REP ALSO INDICATED DESIRABILITY OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE WITH 18 TO 20 MEMBERS.

3. TANZANIA SUPPORTED SPAIN AND IN ADDITION INDICATED GENERAL COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE MAJOR ROLE IN GUIDING CONFERENCE, BUT REP DISAGREED WITH TRYING TO SPLIT WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEE II. REP EMPHASIZED THAT DRAFTING COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY NEGOTIATING FUNCTION AND SHOULD ONLY COORDINATE AND REGULARIZE TEXTS.

4. BULGARIA NOTED COMMITTEES MUST HAVE EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AS WELL AS BEING REPRESENTATIVE OF MAIN STREAMS OF THOUGHT IN NEGOTIATIONS. BULGARIAN REP RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION OF FUNCTIONAL BREAKDOWN INTO FIVE SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEES DEALING WITH SEABEDS; LIVING RESOURCES; NAVIGATION; ENVIRONMENT; AND RESEARCH.

5. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED CERTAIN ITEMS SUCH AS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT WOULD HAVE BE CONSIDERED AS SPECIAL ITEMS RATHER THAN BEING GIVEN TO ONLY ONE SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE.

6. UK SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND SMALL DRAFTING GROUP.

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7. CHILE SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE BUT STRESSED GENERAL COMMITTEE MUST HAVE PROCEDURAL POWERS. CHILIAN REP ALSO SUGGESTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF "ALL STATES."

8. BRAZIL SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND NEED FOR SPECIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BUT FELT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY HAVE SOME NEGOTIATING POWERS IN

DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

9. SAIRE SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH CREDENTIALS AND DRAFTING COMMITTEES NOTED NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING CONSENSUS PROCEDURES AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

10. POLAND STRESSED NECESSITY OF CONSENSUS AND INDICATED THAT VOTING SHOULD NOT BE USED TO MAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS. IF VOTING BECAME NECESSARY THEN SOMETHING MORE THAN A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY SHOULD BE REQUIRED.

11. SOVIET UNION ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF MAINTAINING SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE BUT NOTED DESIRABILITY OF SPLITTING SUBCOMMITTEE II. SOVIET REP POINTED OUT THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES DID NOT HAVE A COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP AND THIS SHOULD BE CORRECTED AT CONFERENCE. REP FINALLY INDICATED NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING CONSENSUS PROCEDURES IF WIDELY ACCEPTABLE CONVENTION WAS TO BE AGREED UPON.

12. TANZANIA SUPPORTED CONSENSUS APPROACH BUT NOTED VOTING MIGHT BE NECESSARY AVOID COMPLETE FAILURE OF CONFERENCE.

13. VENEZUELA SUPPORTED RETAINING SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH SPECIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE. REP SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT SPLIT SUBCOMMITTEE II ITEMS SINCE MANY COUNTRIES FAVOR ZONAL APPROACH FOR ALL RESOURCES. ALSO SAID CONSENSUS WAS BEST APPROACH BUT THAT VOTING MAY BE NECESSARY EVENTUALLY.

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14. JAPAN SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH A DRAFTING GROUP AND SOME BREAKDOWN IN SUBCOMMITTEE II. JAPANESE REP, AFTER STATING ASSUMPTION THAT ONE SESSION WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT COMPLETE CONFERENCE WORK, SAID ONLY CONSENSUS PROCEDURES SHOULD BE USED AT SANTIAGO.

15. FRANCE AGREED WITH JAPAN ON VOTING ISSUE.

16. PERU SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH A DRAFTING GROUP AND RECOMMENDED CHILE BE GIVEN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THAT GROUP.

17. U.S. SUPPORTED USE OF SEABED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH POSSIBILITY OF SPLITTING SUBCOMMITTEE II ITEMS BETWEEN

TWO WORKING GROUPS AND ALSO SUPPORTED
SPECIAL COMMITTEE, DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND GENERAL
COMMITTEE. U.S. REP STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF
CONSENSUS PROCEDURES.

18. MALTA SUPPORTED DRAFTING GROUP AND CONSENSUS
PROCEDURES BUT SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF INDICATIVE
VOTING.

19. INDIA SUPPORTED CONSENSUS WITH VOTING PROCEDURES
POSSIBLE AFTER BASIC POLITICAL DECISIONS WERE REACHED.

20. CHAIRMAN DID NOT ATTEMPT SUM UP MEETING AND
INDICATED HE WOULD CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH CONTACT
GROUP IN NEW YORK. BASSIN

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